Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

There is a Pottery Expert.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

As it is, we have half a dozen Experts in Paper-making, while only one may be employed here.

I mean that a Technological Institute of an advanced character is more dangerous than the manufacture of literary graduates. They would not be able to do anything. A literary graduate can turn his attention to a large number of things. In that, I disagree upon a Technological Institute. A lot of things, we have to consider in this House, before we launch upon a scheme of that sort.

President.— I think we had enough discussion on this subject.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

I wish to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Ambooken's motion was, with leave, withdrawn. The allotment for Education was passed without any reduction.

DEMAND XXI.—Medical— Rs. 2·7 lakhs.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Sir, I rise to request the Government for a grant of Rs. 1,90,626 under the head of Medical—Demand XXI.

In view of the financial stringency of the State, the Diwan had himself personally scrutinised my original budget, and had pared it down to an irreducible minimum. If you now see the budget placed in your hands, you will observe that there is hardly any difference between the years 1101 and 1100, except, of course, under the head of non-votable items of expenditure. The difference in figures of that part of the budget which comes under the purview of this House, you will observe, is first under the head of "Mid-wives". There were 10 Mid-wives last year, while it has been proposed to employ 18 for 1101. I must say here that, during my inspection of the various hospitals of the State, I found that mid-wifery was not properly attended to in the various Mofussil stations. When maternity and health welfare are now engaging

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the attention of every enlightened community, the fact that, in our mofussil stations, there were no qualified mid-wives was, I considered, a blot in the administration. So I brought this to the notice of the Government, and got the sanction of the addition of 8 mid-wives for the various places—Chittur, Nemmara, Mala, Kattur, Chowwara, Chalakkudi, Irinjalakkuda and Kandakkadavu. Fancy ! Those stations have been without mid-wives for so many years !

Running down, I find that, under the head of "clerks", there is an increase of one. That is on account of the employment of an additional clerk in the General Hospital by reason of the increased volume of work, which one clerk was unable to cope with.

Lower down in the statement, there is increase of one compounder. He was specially employed in the Stores department of the General Hospital, when the new arrangement of Sirkar Medical Stores was introduced here. We propose to get down concentrated tinctures, and to dilute them to the proper standard with spirit manufactured in the Trichur Distillery, and to distribute the same to the various hospitals in the State from here. This requires additional labour, which could not possibly be carried out by drawing on the staff compounders of the Out-or In-patients department of the Hospital, without dislocating regular work; and I, therefore, got the appointment of one compounder made.

And running your eye lower down, you will find that, in every other item of expenditure, the expenses remain almost identically the same. There is very much decrease in the allotment for medicines—Rs. 80,000 of last year has been reduced to Rs. 75,000. The figures are almost identically the same in the Lunatic Asylum and Leper Asylum. I shall reserve my further remarks in reply to the motions before the House.

Motion No. 67.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*):

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,431 for Establishment by Rs. 500.

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Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Sir, In proposing the cut in the Medical Services, I place the following facts before you, Sir, and the Hon'ble members of this Council.

In the course of my speech during the general discussion of the budget, I clearly brought to the notice of the Council that the appointment of an additional Civil Surgeon at that time was a superfluity. The C. M. and S. O., in his reply, stated that the Hospital staff of the Medical Officers is being overworked, unable to cope with the existing work. In support of his statement, he compared the State Hospitals with those of Travancore and the Palghat Hospital, in British Malabar.

Let us compare our Hospitals with those of our neighbouring States. I shall give some statistics, as I know them. Sir, I am open to correction.

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SCHEDULE.

Serial No.	Names of the hospitals	No. of beds	Staff	Population	Remarks
1	Ernakulam General Hospital	136 to 150	2 Civil Surgeons 2 Asst. Surgeons 9 Sub-Assistant Surgeons	23,200	Excluding C. M. & S. O. (staff) Municipal area
2	Trichur Hospital	60 to 70	1 Civil Surgeon 2 Asst. Surgeons 3 to 4 Sub-Asst. Surgeons	27,900	Municipal area
3	British Cochin Hospital	60 to 70	1 Civil Surgeon 2 Sub-Asst. Surgeons	25,000	Municipal area
4	Chittur Hospital	12 to 16	1. Asst. Surgeon	19,000	Municipal area including Tattamangalam
5	Palghat Hospital	60 to 70	1. Asst. Surgeon 1. Sub-Asst. Surgeon	45,487	Municipal area
6	Parur Hospital	50 to 60	1. Deputy Surgeon 1. Sub-Asst. Surgeon		Municipal area
7	Vaikom Hospital	30 to 40	1. Asst. Surgeon 1. Sub-Asst. Surgeon		Municipal area
8	British District Hospital	60 to 150	1. D. M. & S. O. 1. Asst. Surgeon 2 to 4 Sub-Asst. Surgeons		...

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President.—The Ernakulam Hospital is a General Hospital. Isn't it?

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I don't question it, Sir; only the comparisons are given here.

It must be clear now to every one of us that our medical institutions are considerably over-manned, and if, as the C. M. & S. O. stated, the staff, as it stands now, is unable to cope with the existing work, the cause of this requires an immediate and urgent investigation.

I say, in our State, posts are created for men, and men are not recruited for posts. The Medical Department is no exception to it. I shall try to convince you of this fact, as I proceed further.

To my question No. 8 (d) "Whether the Government has made any provision for creating such an appointment in the budget for the current year", the reply was "No. Necessary provision has been made by reappropriation." I ask, reappropriation from what? It must be from the provisions made for medicines, etc, for other institutions. In this connection, I bring to the notice of this Council that there was not a single grain of quinine in the Nanniode Dispensary in Chittur Taluk for months together, during this malarial season (1100). Sir, this Dispensary was specially opened in the heart of the malarial tract to combat with malarial fever. This one instance is enough to condemn such reappropriation. I do not know other instances, which may be equally worth mentioning.

During the general discussion of the budget, the C. M. & S. O., in his reply, stated that our Chittur Hospital (containing about 12 to 16 beds) has only one Assistant Surgeon, whereas in Palghat there are two Medical Officers. I need not comment upon this any further, as the already quoted statistics are quite sufficient to show the hollowness of the statement.

There is no increase of the number of beds in the Trichur Hospital. During the time of the late Dr. C. Ramunni Menon, while he was in charge of the Hospital, there were only two or three Sub-Assistant Surgeons under him.

President.—Dr. Ramunni Menon was not the C. M. & S. O.

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Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*)

I am only speaking of that gentleman, in connection with the Trichur Hospital. I take some institutions of the State to place before the Council a general idea of the whole thing.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

What is the comparison with the Trivandrum General Hospital?

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I have no statistics here, Sir.

Now, we have five or six assistants under the Civil Surgeon who is in charge of the Hospital. Of course, I am open to correction.

As soon as Dr. Rao returned, after, specialising in Eye-disease, a new ward (a Dispensary) was constructed and he was put in charge of it.

To my question 8 (b) "Whether there was any immediate necessity or any other special reason for creating such an appointment this year", the reply was "Yes. Work in the Ophthalmic Hospital had considerably increased and a special Medical Officer was necessary to cope with the increased work. Further, the X-Ray apparatus ordered for the General Hospital had to be worked, and it was of advantage to the Durbar to appoint one officer with the required training for the combined X-Ray and Ophthalmic work". To my supplementary question, C. M. & S. O. admitted that the X-Ray Expert had no special training whatsoever in Ophthalmic work (no expert in Eye-disease). Now, I ask, Sir, what *advantage* the Durbar derived in appointing an X-Ray Expert and putting him in charge of the Ophthalmic Hospital (vide answer to question No. 7 (a), while there is already one expert in Eye-disease to work in that branch of the Hospital?

In the statement, submitted by the C. M. & S. O., in reply to the question of the Hon'ble Member for Narakkal (vide reply to question No. 7 (a), it is shown that Dr. Rao, the Eye-specialist, is put in charge of the General Hospital and the newly appointed X-Ray Expert in charge of the Ophthalmic Hospital. Such an allocation of work goes beyond my comprehension. In this connection, I may say for the information of of the Hon'ble Members that the D. M. & S. O.—our C. M. & S. O. was D. M. & S. O. for a very long

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time—is in charge of the District Hospitals in the Madras Presidency.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

May I rise to a point of order? The cut is on the establishment.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I am making certain comparisons, by which only I am able to draw the attention of this House and give you a clear idea of the working of the Hospitals.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Can the Hon'ble Member discuss things non-votable?

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

I am not discussing, Sir; I am not going to speak on non-votable items.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Where is the necessity for the appointment to be discussed?

President.—He is leading us from this point to another point.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

The policy of shunting of the experts out of their own sphere cannot but be detrimental to the efficient working of the Hospitals. In his reply in the general discussion of the budget, the C. M. & S. O. told us that he entirely agreed with my views, namely, "every means should be adopted....., without affecting the quality and efficiency of the work" and said that he is guided by it. In our General Hospital, the distribution of work among the Civil Surgeons is not commendable. An X.-Ray Expert is put in charge of the Ophthalmic work, in which he is no expert. An expert in Ophthalmology is put in charge of General Surgery, in which he is no expert. Is this the way to improve the quality and efficiency of the work, Sir? This policy stands self-condemned in a department which deals with the lives and limbs of poor people. The experts must be permanent fixtures in their own line and move with the advancement of science. If they lose touch with the advancement of their own subject for a long time, I need not tell you, Sir, that experts will become no experts, and thereby the object for which their appointments are made is frustrated.

President.—It is 5. We must close.

The Council rose for the day.

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